

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

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| Date of mailing (day/month/year) 15 DEC 2005 | |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 4349.6 | |
| FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below | |
| International application No. PCT/IL04/00354 | International filing date (day/month/year) 28 April 2004 (28.04.2004) |
| Priority date (day/month/year) 29 April 2003 (29.04.2003) | |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): B 31 F 1/07, B41F 19/02 and US Cl.: 101/3.1, 32 | |
| Applicant STARBOARD TECHNOLOGIES LTD. | |

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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|--|---|---|
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201 | Date of completion of this opinion 09 November 2005 (09.11.2005) | Authorized officer <i>Lydia Daul For</i> Anthony Nguyen Telephone No. 703-272-2800 |
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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/IL04/00354

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/IL04/00354

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

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|-------------------------------|--|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims <u>2-6,12,13,18-20,23,24,28,29</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>1,7-11, 14-17,21,22,25-27, 30-39</u> | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims <u>NONE</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>1,7-11, 14-17,21,22,25-27, 30-39</u> | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims <u>1-39</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>NONE</u> | NO |

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1, 7-11, 14-17, 21,22,25-27 and 30-39 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Long et al. (US 6,865,001 B2). Long et al. clearly teaches the method of providing a hidden image within a substrate including the steps of embossing recesses on the substrate (see Long et al., claims 51, 52, 70 and 74).

Claims 2-6, 12, 13, 18-20, 23, 24, 28 and 29 lacks an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Long et al. (US 6,865,001 B2) in view of Koltai et al. (US 6,104,812). To modify the method of Long et al. by providing an image that is converted into a digital information to be used for engraving as taught by Konital et al. would not involve an inventive step. See Koltai et al. col.8, lines 61-63, col.10 line 57 and claims 8 and 13.

Claims 2-6, 12, 13, 18-20, 23, 24, 28 and 29 lacks an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Long et al. (US 6,865,001 B2) in view of McGrew (US 5,396,559). To modify the method of Long et al. by providing an image that is converted into a digital information to be used for engraving as taught by McGrew would not involve an inventive step. See McGrew col.8, the abstract and col.10 second paragraph.